

REMARKS

By this Amendment claim 1 has been amended to define the fact that the flexible connector means is fixedly connected at a first end to the elongated tab and at a second end to the collar, claims 9 and 10 have been corrected, and claims 11 and 12 have been added to state that the flexible connector means is stitched to the elongated tab (claim 11) and to the collar (claim 12). See specification at page 4, paragraph 0011. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grilliot et al. in view of Shweid.

This rejection must be withdrawn. Grilliot et al. disclose a firefighter's coat with an adjustable, removable and replaceable chinstrap 50. The coat includes a collar 34 mounting a short strap 40 and a body 38 of hook and loop pile material on its right side 34R, and a body 66 of hook and pile material on its left side 34L. The chinstrap 50 includes bodies 54, 56 of hook and pile material on its end 50A and a body 60 of hook pile material on its end 50B. The chinstrap can be removably and adjustably attached to the collar 34 by adjustable connection of bodies 56 and 38, 54 and 44, and 60 and 66. The chinstrap 50 is not "fixedly connected" to the short strap 40 similarly to the connection of elongated tab 21 to the flexible connector strap 24 of the present invention. Nor would it be obvious to so connect the chinstrap 50 to the short strap 40 in Grilliot et al. because the desired removability would be lost

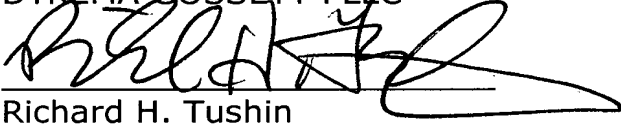
It should also be noted that the chinstrap 50 in Grilliot et al. would not hang freely down from the collar as does the elongated tab 21 of the present invention because of the shape of the short strap 40 in Grilliot et al. not resulting in proper flexibility. And the chinstrap 50 does not include attachment means on its rear surface to enable it to be attached to itself in a folded condition to protect from external contamination. And nothing in Shweid would suggest otherwise.

A prompt allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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